

U.S. Ag. Secretary Glickman Grants Utah Disaster Relief

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, designated six Utah counties natural disaster areas, thereby making federal assistance available for qualified farmers and ranchers throughout much of Utah. The designation was signed Dec. 11, 2000 and takes affect immediately.

"This is tremendous news for our Utah farmers and ranchers who endured one of the most severe seasons in recent memory," said Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson. "I urge all of our affected farmers and ranchers to contact their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) representatives to begin the qualification process," he added.

The Secretary's designation identified six counties, Beaver, Cache, Carbon, Emery, Garfield, and Juab as sustaining sufficient production losses to warrant a disaster designation.

According to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act,

eleven other counties are eligible for assistance. Those counties are: Box Elder, Duchesne, Iron, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, Tooele, Utah, Wayne, and Weber. The Secretary also states, "All other contiguous counties have already been designated or named for the same disaster."

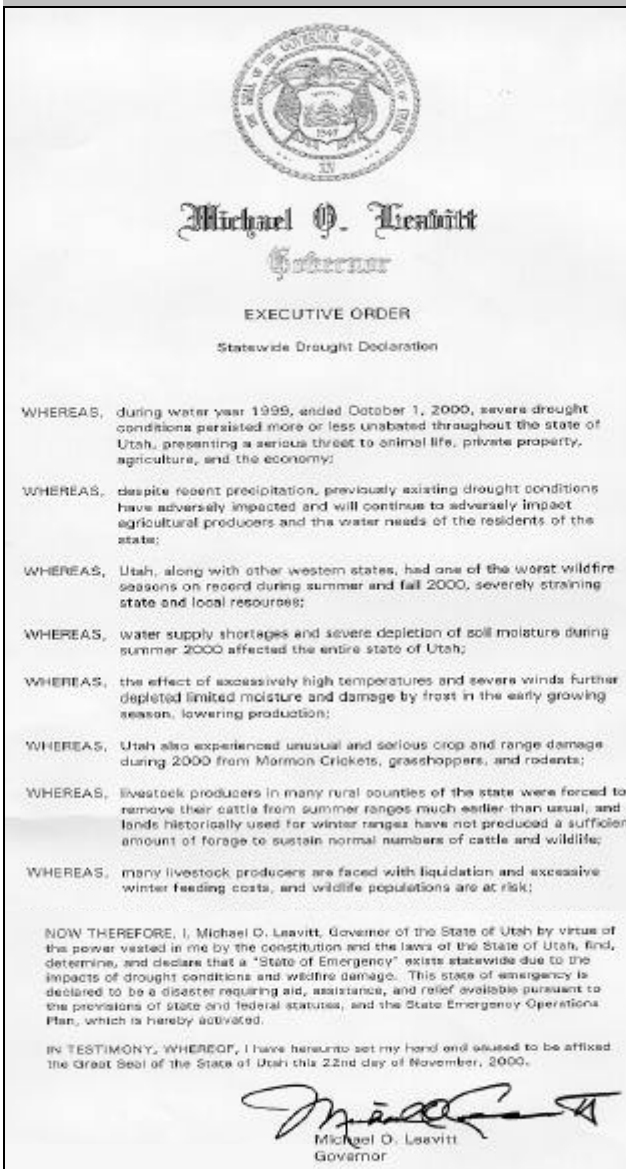
"This designation makes family-sized operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from FSA. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available, repayment ability, and other eligibility requirements," Secretary Glickman wrote.

Farmers and ranchers are being directed to contact their local FSA office for further information.

In a recent letter, Commissioner Peterson and Governor Leavitt urged Secretary Glickman to provide assistance to Utah farmers and ranchers. They wrote, "Our state continues to feel the effects of a prolonged period of below-normal levels of

See drought effect on one Utah commodity. story on pg. 2

precipitation as calendar year 2000 began. The year continued with below-normal snow pack statewide. Low snow runoff, a summer of little or no precipitation, extended periods of high temperatures and dry winds and cricket and grasshopper infestations have placed our state's farmers and



UTAH AG NEWS

JANUARY 2001

2000

Agriculture: Your Food Resource

on the

web



Governor
Leavitt
Commissioner of Agriculture and Food

Michael O.
Cary G.

UDAF Employees Give To Quarters For Christmas

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food employees generated more than one thousand dollars to help put shoes on Utah's needy this holiday season. Department employees raised a total of \$1,160 during two auctions for the KSL Quarters For Christmas Program. That program is known around the state for providing shoes for the needy in Utah. The program is one of the few in the state with no administrative overhead costs, so all of the donated money goes to buy shoes.

UDAF Employees raised \$410 during their silent auction, and \$750 from their live auction at the annual holiday party.

Coke Is It!!

As the old ad campaign says, "Coke is it!" That statement holds true for UDAF employees who are helping to fund their summer and

holiday parties with the help of Coca-Cola, and the other products stocked in the building vending machines.

Jack Wilbur, the department's Employee Service Committee chairman says the committee changed its vendor contracts and is receiving a greater percentage of the profits from the



vending machines. "In the past we were getting about \$25 a month from the machines. Now, because we are stocking some of the products ourselves, we are earning about \$110 a month," he said.

Make Mine Diet

Jack says that Diet Coke sales are about twice that of the other beverages. The vending machine profits and the recycling sales help fund the various employee functions each year.

The year 2000 Employee Service Committee members were: Jack Wilbur, Chairman; Liza Layne, Plant Industry; Dan Palacios, Liberty Glines, Administrative Services; Brett Gurney, Regulatory Services; Jack Small, Animal Industry; and Barr Christensen, Chemistry Lab.

Members for next year's Employee Service Committee will be selected in the next several weeks.



UTAH AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Utah Drought Affects Dry Bean Production

Production of dry beans in Utah during 2000 is estimated at 10,000 hundredweight (cwt), according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service. Production was down 81 percent from last year and down 67 percent from 1998. Utah dry bean growers harvested 3,000 acres in 2000, down 3,600 acres from 1999 and down 2,900 acres from 1998.

Average yield of 330 pounds per acre was down 470 pounds from last year and down 180 pounds from 1998.

Nationally, production of dry edible beans is estimated at 26.4 million cwt for 2000, down 20 percent from 1999 and 13 percent below two years ago. Production is down in 2000 for all estimating states except Montana, Oregon, and Wisconsin. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.61 million acres, down 14 percent from 1999 and 16 percent below 1998. Average yield, at 1,641 pounds per acre, decreased 122 pounds from 1999 but is 55 pounds per acre above 1998.

Much of Utah's bean crop is produced on dryland farms. Drought conditions in Utah during 2000 substantially impacted production for the year. (see drought assistance relief on page 1)

